

RECKLESS RALPH'S DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting preservation, and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels and libraries, and popular story papers. Published by Ralph F. Cummings, Pleasant St., Grafton, Mass. One dollar a year-Ten cents a copy.

Volume 4

JUNE, 1935

Number 42

DICK DOBBS DETECTIVE WEEKLY

By George French

As far as I know, here is the novel with the record low batting average published prior to 1910, as it went to press only nine times. It was born in 1909 and died the same year. Why so soon passing out, I do not know, for it was on a par with the NEW NICK CARTER WEEKLY, both in respect to appearance and the quality of its stories.

It was published by the George Marsh Co., 257 William St., N.Y. The paper was excellent and the drawings by a real artist. The color scheme was truly dime-novelistic, and the stories really thrilling. "Shadow Steve" was the writer of all nine of them. I have the entire series of nine with the exception of No. 1. If anyone can spare this number, I'm waiting. Should also like a better No. 3, as mine looks like a last year's Christmas tree. I happened to run across a bunch of No. 7's in Maine last summer, all like new. The story, "The Frozen Face" or Dick Dobbs among the Smugglers, was so thrilling, that I wanted the set.

What surprises me, is the fact that these novels printed in 1909, are so scarce, but naturally all serials in which no reprints were run, are bound to be rare.

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

Publisher's Note:-I too,have wondered many times why the DICK DOBBS DETECTIVE WEEKLY was not continued,as there were some fine stories in it.I have No.7 in fine shape,and a corking good story,too.32 pages of text printed on good paper,size 8x11.Pub.May 1, 1909.Even the artist knew and did his work well.Too bad there is not more of them.

There was supposed to be a Companion Paper to the DICK DOBBS DETECTIVE WEEKLY,known as BOYS' OWN.Whether it ever appeared,I do not know,but if it did,not many issues were published.It would probably have been another of the fine Marsh weekly publications if it appeared. Here is a job of research for some one.

At one time I had the set from #2 to #7, but only have a #7 left. I intend to try to get another set,this time complete."Shadow Steve" was a stock name for the DICK DOBBS DETECTIVE WEEKLY.

I note that the George Marsh Company was located at 257 William Street in N.Y. This must have been the publisher's paradise,as many novel publishers were located there. Some day I hope to get a sight of the old street,if there are any sights to be seen there,now.

-----*

DID YOU KNOW THAT-----

Many of the CAMPFIRE LIBRARY stories were reprints of DEWITT'S TEN CENT ROMANCES,altho under different titles? Some good pioneer tales in the series,too.

Numbers of the GOLDEN LIBRARY,an old-time booklet style novel series,are quite scarce. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ x8 $\frac{1}{4}$,with yellow covers,containing several illustrations.Published by Albert Sibley & Co.,18 Rose Street,N.Y. in the 1880's,and sold for ten cents per copy.

The TEMPERANCE LIBRARY,also published by

Sibley, is just about the scarcest publication to find. Appeared in 1883, and beleived to have lasted only long enough to print five titles. Of the CAMPFIRE or WAR LIBRARY type, both of which were turned out by George Sibley and Co., the firm name following their first style of Novelist Publishing Co., and sold for ten cents per copy.

Another rare bird is the BROADWAY LIBRARY, published by Geo. E. Blakelee, 287 Broadway, N. Y. C. in 1882, which also went under after four of five issues. This Blakelee wrote a couple of novels in the LITTLE CHIEF LIBRARY, #159 and #180. He got burned as a publisher, no doubt. This was the same size as the WAR LIBRARY and sold for five cents a copy.

The E. D. LONG & CO.'s DIME ROMANCES are not to be sneezed at. A rare novel series published by E. D. Long & Co., 26 Ann St., N. Y. C. in 1860; a regular ten cent booklet type, of short life.

Still another rare one is WM. H. CHANEY'S AMERICAN NOVELS, published by W. H. Chaney, 40 Ann St., N. Y. C. in 1860. Sold at ten cents a copy.

The story of "Jack Harkaway Out West Among the Indians" by Bracebridge Hemyng, appeared in COMFORT, published in Augusta, Maine. It ran as a serial starting in Jan. 1903.

Street and Smith's FAME AND FORTUNE MAGAZINE was discontinued after the stock market crash of 1929. These stories were about the same as those in FAME AND FORTUNE WEEKLY, published by Frank Tousey.

---*---

THE RACKETTY BOHEMIANS

George Emmett was a cavalry officer who fought in the Crimea. He was a bit of a humbug as well, as he certainly put his name to a good many stories in which he had no part

in writing, or at least, a very small part. Almost the only things left entirely to his credit are the SHOT AND SHELL stories. The Emmett periodicals were first owned by Wm. Emmett, who went bankrupt after three or four years. George took them over and carried on until the late 1870's, when he also got spun out. In the early 1880's, Geo. Emmett, Jr. re-issued some of the papers but they had very short runs.

The last record we have of the Emmetts is when George was imprisoned early in the 20th century for publishing obscene literature. This was probably George, Jr., for doing some over-spicy periodical.

Looks like they were all a racketty lot of bohemians, that gallant band of popular writers of more than a half-century ago; Phillips-Beaumont-Vane St. John-and many of the others.

Publisher's Note: The foregoing item about one of the great creators of the English "bloods" has been circulating around among some of the fans who like to write letters to one another. Originally written, I do believe, by Patrick Mulhall, it deserves more permanent record, here.

-----*-----

CAPTAIN NORTH PASSES

Captain Luther H. North, eighty-nine, a Columbus, Ohio, pioneer, leader of the Pawnee Indian Scouts in frontier days, and last member of the G.A.R. post in Columbus, died Thursday night after a fall from the back porch of his home. He suffered a fractured skull, and died in the Lutheran Good Samaritan Hospital, four hours later without regaining consciousness. He was an Honorary Member of the Happy Hours Brotherhood. His death was reported by W.R. Johnson.

OLD KING BRADY

By Geo. H. Cordier

"He was a tall, distinguished-looking old gentleman of striking appearance and peculiar dress. He wore a long blue coat with brass buttons, an old-fashioned stock and stand-up collar, and a big white hat with an extraordinarily broad brim."

How many of the lovers of the good old hair-trigger style of literature, will recognize the foregoing description? They can be counted by the thousands, and they will all take off their hats to the greatest detective bar none, who ever lived in the fascinating pages of dime novel fiction.

"The Noblest Roman of them All", Old King Brady. Beside him, the Nick Carters, Old Cap Collier, Old Sleuth, Young Sleuth, etc., pale into insignificance. None of these, or any of the numerous sleuths who flourished in the libraries and story papers of the days that are past, can take rank with the old detective. He stands alone in a class by himself, and there is no one else who can measure up to his standard.

At first alone in the pages of that gorgeous and absorbingly fascinating boys' paper of the good old days, the BOYS OF NEW YORK, then, with his two assistants, the dashing Harry and the lovely Alice, in his own particular weekly, SECRET SERVICE, Old King Brady passed through more strange adventures, had more narrow escapes, and brought more criminals to justice than any other of the detectives whose adventures were chronicled in the libraries and story papers of dime novel times.

(to be continued)

HAPPY DAYS IN 1885

Somebody must have a copy of HAPPY DAYS, a "popular 16-page illustrated paper for boys and girls", as they called it, published in Hartford, Conn., in 1885. A small advertisement offering a "set of parlor furniture, made in imitation of the most fashionable plush and ebony parlor suites", and a three month's subscription to HAPPY DAYS, for twenty cents, appeared in various popular publications of that period. Hartford, please write !

---*---

DICK TURPIN NOTE

Sir Philip Sasson, British aviation official, owns a house in Barnet, England, where Dick Turpin used to hide. In excavating there a decade ago, an old manor with drawbridge and other relics, including Roman sandals, was unearthed. Sir Walter Scott also worked the Turpin house into a scene in "The Fortunes of Nigel." It's hard to kill Dick !

---*---

NOTES BY A NEW YORK BOY

It was the Gorgeous Weekly & BOYS OF NEW YORK beat 'em all. Bill Benners stacked them. Bought No. 1 hot off the news stand when nine years old.

"The Boy Balloonist, or, Adventures in the Clouds", by Harry Enton, must have swept them off their feet, in 1875. Enton wrote this story, and others, before he came through with Frank Reade, the greatest boy inventor the world has ever known. "The Steam Man of the Plains, or, The Terror of the West", knocked 'em dead in 1876.

Peter Pad's "Shorty, or, Kicked into Good Luck" also appeared in 1876. Who's beating it today ? 1876 was a grand year in American history. Country got a good start that year. Philadelphia Centennial gave it the needed

boost. Philadelphia a grand old town, too.

What about the "Flying Man, or, The Adventures of a Young Inventor", by Harry Kennedy, which began in No. 236 BOYS OF NEW YORK ? Who was Kennedy ?

Ever get a flash of that grand Christmas number which appeared in December, 1882 ? Big front-page woodcut, showing pictures of all BOYS OF NEW YORK authors. An extra number. A magnificent gesture, not often repeated.

NEW YORK BOYS' WEEKLY, another Tousey paper. Appeared in March, 1877. A most astonishing enterprise, brilliantly conducted. "A Trip to the Center of the Earth". It was a sensation in this paper in 1878.

-----*-----

PARTIAL LIST OF 1935

MEMBERS OF H.H.B.

3. RALPH P. SMITH, Box 985, Lawrence, Mass.
6. W.C. MILLER, 922 W. Gramercy St., San Antonio, Texas.
9. LEVI MORGAN, 3018 25th St., N.E. Washington, D.C.
11. J.D. HARDIN, 634 S. Broad St., Burlington, N.C.
28. JOHN BALL, 4916 Cortland St., Chicago, Ill.
30. ARVID DAHLSTEDT, Box 67, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
31. C.B. HAMILTON, 8 Paris St., Norway, Maine.
32. H. BERTRAND COUCH, Box 22977, San Francisco Calif.
33. LEO SCHERER, Hartford, So. Dakota.
47. GEORGE H. CORDIER, 148 W. 51st St., Los Angeles, Calif.
50. J.P. GUINON, Box 214, Little Rock, Ark.
51. HAROLD C. HOLMES, 358 Crown St., New Haven, Conn.. moved to 184 Temple St., same city.

This being a REPRINT (as of August, 1963) we do not list all the items For Sale or wanted.

The following Advertisers appeared in the original issue.

ROBERT H. SMELTZER, Philadelphia, Pa.

JOSEPH POTASKI, Farnumsville, Mass.
(had a full-page)

RALPH P. SMITH, Lawrence, Mass.

L.MORGAN, Washington, D.C.

VALLEY NOVEL EXCHANGE, Grafton, Mass.

C.G.STEEN, Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

RALPH C. CUMMINGS, Grafton, Mass.

GEORGE FRENCH, Bloomfield, N.J.

FRED T. SINGLETON, Winchester, Va.

EDWARD LE BLANC, Fall River, Mass.